GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:911
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
HIGHER AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION THROUGH MERIT
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding privatisation of Higher and Professional education;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to make professional education equally accessible to all students purely based on merits, irrespective of their social and economic background;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for not conducting a common entrance test for all the professional colleges affiliated to AICTE to ascertain the quality of the students; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the admission procedure followed by private professional institutions supported by the Government through various subsidies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a): There is currently no bar to private participation in the Education sector.The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary effort in Education,while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to commercialize Education.The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992)envisages that "in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialization of technical and professional education will be curbed.

(b)&(c): As per the guidelines issued by AICTE for admission of students to technical institutions,admissions should be made purely on merit and through Common Entrance Test.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): AICTE has been empowered under Section 10 (k) of the AICTE Act, to lay down norms for admission of students in Universities and Institutions imparting Technical Education.In accordance with these provisions, and based on the directions of Supreme Court of India in various cases, regulations have been framed providing for the procedure to be followed for admission of students.